

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before (numbered) line 4, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

On page 3, after line 16, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 1A and 1B respectively show ~~Figure 1 shows~~ the “before” and “after” states of an email processed by an embodiment of the present invention; and

On page 3, after line 24, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1b shows the situation after the email 1' ~~[[1]]~~ has been processed by the system to be described below and the content pointed at by the link 2 has been judged to be acceptable. The content, i.e. image 3 has been copied to an object server 5 as image 3'; the object server 5 is hosted on a secure server machine 6 (or array of such machines) under the control of the person or organisation operating the system (e.g. an ISP). The original link 2 has been replaced by a new link 2' pointing at the image 3' stored on the secure or trusted server 6. The server 6 operates in the security domain of the operator of the system and has access permissions associated with the stored content objects such as 3' which enable eventual recipients of emails such as 1', or more strictly speaking their email client software to follow the link 2' and retrieve the linked-to object. Of course, the access permissions of server 6 should prevent persons or software without appropriate security credentials from writing to the linked-to object storage area.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 shows the part 100 of the system which processes emails and modifies them to replace links to objects on untrusted servers such as 4 by links to objects on trusted server 6, where the linked-to object is considered to be acceptable content. Figure 3 shows the object server 300 which provides the linked-to objects when recipients follow the processed links in their emails.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

4. When the email is read, the object server 300 ~~the part 200 of the system~~ illustrated in Figure 3 comes into play. The new link may be requested either by the email client software, or by the person reading the email clicking or otherwise selecting the link. This generates a request retrieve an object from the trusted server 6. The server 6 looks up in the link database 106 to find the original object, and retrieves it. If it cannot be retrieved, go to step 8.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 shows the object server 300 which services requests received at an input 301 to retrieve a linked-to object on an entrusted server, scan it for acceptability and, if acceptable, to store it on the secure "safelink" server 6. An object locator 302 ~~300~~ locates the linked-to object, e.g. on the internet and initiates a retrieval operation by which the object is retrieved by the retriever 303. This retrieval process takes place using the internet protocol appropriate to the link and linked-to object. If the retrieval fails, an error handler 304 is invoked. If successful, the object is processed by an object control scanner 305 which makes a determination of whether the content is acceptable. If it is not, the error handler 304 is invoked, otherwise an object returner 306 returns the object and stores it on the trusted server 6.

Please replace the heading on page 8, line 1 with the following amended heading: